



Vance County Farm Service Agency Newsletter

June 15, 2007

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Vance County

USDA Service Center
Vance County FSA
853 S. Beckford Dr., Ste. B
Henderson, NC 27536
(252) 438-3134

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

George Pegram, Jr. - Chairperson
Dale Reese - Vice Chairperson
Joel Simon Harris - Regular Member

Advisors

Arthur Evans
Rachel Garrett

Executive Director

Denise Hight

Farm Loan Officers

Charles Walls
Melissa Seaman

Program Technicians

Fred Coghil
Tammy Dail
Lisa Furlow

Reminders:

COC Meeting: 1st Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

The office will be closed Wednesday, July 4th, 2007, in Observance of Independence Day

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Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, contact Denise Hight, CED @ 252-438-3134, ext 2.

In Remembrance

The Vance County Farm Service Agency Family recently lost one of its members with the passing of Bennie L. Harris, Jr. May 13, 2007. Bennie served on the Vance County FSA County Committee and Community Committee for 26 years prior to his retirement in December 2006. He also served for 20 years on the Vance County Soil and Water Conservation District. Bennie was not only a well respected leader in the agricultural community of Vance County but was a gracious and true gentleman who always did his very best to support the interests of the farmers he served and provide guidance to each and every employee that ever had the privilege to serve along side Bennie. The legacy mark that Bennie has left upon the Vance County Farm Service Agency will never be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Acreage Reporting

The timely filing of an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a number of programs, including Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program and marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments. Producers must file a FSA-578 on all summer seeded crops such as tobacco, soybean, and all remaining cropland no later than Monday, July 2, 2007. If producers are still planting after the final reporting date, they have 15 days after completing planting to certify that acreage with the FSA office.

Report Failed Acres

Failed acres or weather related damage to crops must be reported to FSA before the evidence is destroyed. Failure to report this information in a timely manner could affect the benefits you receive.

Committee Nominations Open June 15th

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area 3 will be accepted from June 15th through August 1, 2007. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA 3 and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers may also nominate candidates.

Vance County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 3. That position is currently held by George W. Pegram, Jr. LAA 3 includes Middleburg and Sandy Creek Townships.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 2, 2007, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 3, 2007.

All farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers are encouraged to participate. The county committee provides local input on commodity price support loans and payments; establish allotments and yields; conservation programs; disaster assistance payments and programs.

More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited includes, marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plant.

2007 Direct & Counter Cyclical Program

The Vance County Farm Service Agency reminds all farm owners and operators that sign-up for the 2007 DCP program began October 1, 2006 and ends August 3, 2007, and that it is **their responsibility to carefully review the DCP contract shares to ensure that the shares accurately reflect their interest in the DCP base acres. DCP contract shares can be revised any time prior to the DCP deadline of September 30, 2007.** Also, producers, owners and/or operators must have supporting documentation on file to determine their eligibility to receive any federally funded farm program payment such as: **AD-1026, CCC-502, CCC-526 and FSA-578. Producers are encouraged to ask for a copy of the CCC-509 Appendix, which explains the terms and conditions of the DCP contract, if one is not provided at time of enrollment.**

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U. S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys; and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Banking Information

In order for records to be updated in a timely manner and to insure that your payments are made correctly, please contact our office as soon as possible if you have made any changes to your banking information.

Payments Limitation

Participants in FSA programs are required to file a CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan for Eligibility Review. You are also required to notify us of any changes in your farming operation which could affect a "person", actively engaged in farming; cash rent tenant; or foreign person determination. A limitation on the total annual payments a person may receive has been in effect since enactment of the Agricultural Act of 1970. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 authorized payments to which payment limitation and payment eligibility provisions are applicable and added a \$2.5 million average adjusted gross income limitation. The payment limitation amounts for the following programs are:

DCP Direct Payments	\$40,000
DCP Counter-cyclical	\$65,000
Price Support	\$75,000
CRP	\$50,000
NAP	\$100,000
CDP (Disaster)	\$80,000

Farm Service Agency Signature Limitations

All USDA Farm Service Agency County Offices shall verify that documented signature authority is properly on file in the County Office prior to accepting any signature for program or other related documents on behalf of another. Acceptable documentation can include FSA-211 (Power of Attorney), Corporate Charters, Articles of Partnership, Court Orders of Appointment, Bylaws, Last Will and Testaments, and Trust Agreements. Spouses can sign documents on behalf of one another in which either has an interest in unless written notification denying a spouse authority to sign has been provided to the county office. However, according to agency policy, "county offices shall not provide any agency records of a producer to the producers spouse unless written authorization granting the release of such records has been provided to the county office." For more information concerning Signature Authorizations contact the Vance County FSA Office.

Visit FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov

FCIC/RMA Program Spot-Checks

The Vance County Farm Service Agency continues to assist the Risk Management Agency (RMA) with crop inspections for FY 2007. Farm Service Agency representatives will make required spot-checks and report any fraud, waste, and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIC) to the Risk Management Agency. USDA has a hotline to report suspected cases of crop insurance fraud: 1-800-424-9121 or contact your local Farm Service Agency Office.

Maintaining CRP Cover

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The primary nesting period in Vance County is April 15th through September 15th.

CRP participants with expiring contract acres in the final year of the CRP-1, who intend to destroy cover for preparation for spring or fall-seeded crops, need pre-authorization from FSA to avoid penalty. Authorization can only be granted after a completed CRP-1G (Modification to Allow Early Preparation) is reviewed and approved by the County Committee.

CCC-633 EZ

The CCC-633-EZ form is a one size fits all form you can use to indicate your intention to receive loan deficiency payments for all crops at the beginning of the crop year, long before you've lost beneficial interest. The same form is then used to submit a request for an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

The CCC-633-EZ and eLDP online request are the only methods available to request LDP's.